

## **Superior Court of California, County of Kern County Metropolitan Division**

**SUBJECT:** Mediation Panel for Civil Cases Exceeding \$5,000

**PURPOSE:** To provide a uniform set of guidelines for placement on the court's panel of approved mediators for civil litigation

**POLICY:** Mediation for civil cases valued at \$5,000 or more will be encouraged as a method to reduce court resources and expense for litigants.

### **PROCEDURE:**

1. The court will create and maintain a panel of qualified mediators for civil cases valued at \$5,000 or more.
2. The court's qualifications shall include:
  - a. Completion of a court-approved application packet
  - b. Minimum 40 hours training in mediation skills
    - i Required training may consist of cumulative hours, although the requirement for a total of 40 hours will not be waived
    - ii Retired judicial officers are exempt from this requirement
  - c. Experience mediating at least three civil cases
    - i Each case requires resolution or at least two hours of mediation without resolution
  - d. Mediators will not be required to be licensed attorneys
3. The court will process applications, and may research or verify information contained therein.
4. Application packets and instructions shall be available on the court's website and at the Civil Division.
5. Qualifying experience may be attained by mediating mandatory settlement conferences at Kern County Superior Court.
6. Information about the mediation panel will be disseminated to the public via the following methods:
  - a. Court website
  - b. Hard copy binder to be available at public counter of the Civil Division

- c. Hard copy binders to be available in courtrooms where civil cases are commonly scheduled